

**Washington, DC -** Congressman Charles Gonzalez (TX-20) issued the following statement applauding the passage of the Fiscal Year 2008 budget resolution in the United States House of Representatives:

“I am proud to have voted for a budget resolution that is fiscally responsible, brings the budget back to surplus by 2012, and strictly adheres to the pay-as-you-go principle passed by the House of Representatives in January. This budget restores fiscal responsibility and accountability, strengthens our national defense, and invests in the next generation and America's prosperity. What we've passed truly reflects the priorities of the American people.

Most importantly, this budget restores vital resources and funding for many programs that were at risk due to cuts proposed by the President. The increased funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) will help reduce the number of uninsured children across the country. The increase for veterans' health care in the history of our country, providing \$3.5 billion more than the President's budget, will ensure that all our veterans in Texas will receive care worthy of their service. And to help foster economic growth and to support the small business community, this budget rejects the President's proposal to cut the Small Business Administration by 26 percent from last year's request.

After years of rising deficits and national debt, this budget finally puts us on the right course. By instituting pay-as-you-go budgeting and making key investments in America's top priorities, this budget is a step in the right direction for all of America's families.”

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